

Saturday. Coxford

Dear, I have been busy with today - for the guns have come & I had to superintend the unloading from the railway & the placing them in our gun park here. It was mostly standing up in the mud & drizzle. The men looked on the guns as if they were Christmas presents - worked willingly, so most were finished soon after dark. Smith went to Bath for the week end & Capt. Young stayed indoors, so I had everything to do to. We shall not be long now. Moreover there will be 2 advance parties, one to go over with the guns, one to go to our first camp & prepare the way. & I may very likely be in charge of one party. This would probably mean starting on Thursday. I hope the things will arrive soon. My things will include the khaki trousers, muffle, waistcoat, slippers, blanket, mess. Most other things I expect to still return.

Now we 4 subalterns have a gun & a detachment each - Thorburn looks after the telephones. I have No 4 gun & shall be in Horton's section - section is 2 guns or half a battery.

I heard an officer at Abingdon Station was asking for Ella Wilcox's Poems & praising them. Capt. Young likes Reddy Haggard & Katherine Tyman. It has a painful disease of the guns & may probably leave us for a time at least. Thorburn returns on Monday or Tuesday.

I have taken our men in hand & have shown the cook how to make for nothing a far better soup than by adding water to a tablet. I get him to put all the bacon bones & rind & green vegetable water to in a stockpot. He now fries bread with no bacon. Also he will no longer throw away half a boiled plum & nut pudding, but

try it in series.

That doge for the Linoleum has not come yet. You must not fail to tell me how much it cost at all.

Have you some news due about now?

I have been testing the battery compass today too. So you see I also am not idle.

The enclosed bill I want you put with other receipts. The verses are some I wrote a month ago & didn't think much of. Perhaps you would like them split them with the rest. You know the keys are in the chest of drawers in the bedroom.

Perhaps I might be able to add to this as I start only to collect the Newbolls - if I am able to go in this busy time. Goodbye. Eddy.

PS. There was my turn to demonstrate the Cycles & myself. I & we had a fully good talk about wild animals & birds - he is a sportsman & knows the mountains of Ireland & the coast. But he is always a bit shy (or makes me so) of going up & showing his tastes.

I have to take church parade tomorrow, so that I shall be late for lunch & I don't get a lift from a lorry on the way.